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Olympic Day

Grace Conley, 9, kicks a soccer ball towards a net set up against the wall as Welland native and Olympic bronze medalist Sabrina D'Angelo, right, cheers her on from the sidelines. D'Angelo came to St. Ann Catholic Elementary School to share her story and show the kids some soccer moves. See story on Page 3.

LAURA BAYTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK



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PenFinancial Credit Union to open Fonthill branch

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Fonthill will see a PenFinancial Credit Union branch begin to take shape next spring at the Marketplace development.

The credit union aims to have its doors open by the fall.

Chief executive officer Ken Janzen said there has never been a PenFinancial branch in that area of the region before, but there has been a demand for it.

"We found we actually have a good market in Fonthill that was being served both by our Welland and, actually, from our St. Catharines locations," he said.

While people can still choose to go to those branches if they please, Janzen said opening one up in Fonthill

is about convenience.

Janzen said another thing the credit union tries to do is stay local.

"Our brand is truly local banking. We want our branches to be an experience," he said. "Our vision in the mission statement is enriching lives in communities and bettering communities, so we'll very much respect the local community that we function in so we'll look for ways to honour the history of that community."

The bank is embracing the local aspect by having a "boutique-style" branch. He said rather than just being a financial institution, it's about making sure members have a special, comfortable experience.

Janzen said the new building along Regional Road 20 is a good fit for the branch because of the numerous other shops and residential build-



Illustration of the PenFinancial Credit Union branch coming to Fonthill in Spring 2017.

SUPPLIED IMAGE

ings going up in that area.

"It fits our branch strategy to place ourselves in good locations to give people access."

Another way the company works to give people access is through the "ask the CEO" e-mail.

The e-mail can be used for any questions a member has or to give feedback about their experience.

Members can send those questions and comments to asktheceo@penfinancial.com.

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Pelham wants NPCA audit

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Pelham has joined the list of local municipalities calling for a provincial audit of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Town council passed its resolution for just that following a presentation last Monday night by outspoken NPCA critic Ed Smith.

He is pressing for a "full scope audit" of what he calls an assault on "some of our core democratic principles."

Smith told council he is a private citizen who does not represent any group.

However, supporters of his journey before municipalities served by the NPCA filled the gallery of the Pelham council chamber.

His next step is to approach other municipalities served by the NPCA in his crusade for an audit.

In reaction to Smith's presentation, Ward 3 Coun. John Durley said "something needs to be cleared up."

Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybak said

it is really necessary for the authority to be transparent "it can't just say there is nothing here and move along."

Mayor Dave Augustyn said, as a regional councillor, he tried to direct money to the NPCA to do a thorough audit but regional council did not accept it.

Pelham councillors last Monday, for the most part, adopted the style of St. Catharines and Port Colborne resolutions calling for a provincial audit.

Councillors settled on urging the province "to immediately initiate an unrestricted investigation, be it a value for money and forensic audit and an organizational and operational audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority."

Audits in some form have also been requested by Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wainfleet and Niagara Falls, and Hamilton.

Pelham's resolution will be sent to the premier, minister of natural resources and forestry, and the auditor general.

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Olympic goalkeeper scores with kids

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

The kids at St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Fenwick had a special end-of-the-term treat last Wednesday when Olympic bronze medalist Sabrina D'Angelo came to visit.

The day was organized by Grade 3/4 teacher MaryAnn Colitti, who asked D'Angelo to come to the school to talk about her soccer career after a chance meeting at a Niagara IceDogs game in November.

Colitti said she and a few of her colleagues happened to have box seating that night and saw D'Angelo in the hallway, so they cheered to show their support for the local star.

"(Afterwards,) she came back to our box and then we got pictures with her," Colitti said. "We actually asked her if she would mind coming to our school."

D'Angelo said visiting to a school and interacting with young kids is a fun way to give back to the community.

"I'm thankful MaryAnn asked me because I was once their age and in their shoes, so to be here and have my presence around and what I've accomplished, they get to see it. It's cool."

D'Angelo attended Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary and Notre Dame College schools in Welland.

She said she started taking soccer seriously in Grade 8.

She was part of Team Canada in Rio, where it faced off against Brazil to capture the bronze medal title.

Children that passed her in the hallway asked if she brought her medal and were excited when she said she did.

"I like (bringing the medal) because if I was their age, I'd want to see it, too," she said with a laugh.

For the first half of the day, all the kids took turns with their classes going through some soccer drills with D'Angelo. She even let



PHOTOS BY LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Grades 3 and 4 students at St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Fenwick count out as Olympic bronze medalist Sabrina D'Angelo does 25 situps — five for every goal scored against her by the students.

them take a shot at trying to score on her afterwards, which she said is always fun as a goalkeeper.

"If kids are having fun, that's the most important part," she said. "If they're loving what they're doing,

enjoying themselves, then I'm happy."

Grade 4 students Julia Tremere and Isaac Gravelle, both 9, said

they had lots of fun and that it was cool to have an Olympic athlete come to their school.

"I was excited last night," Julia said of anticipating the day.

Isaac was one of the lucky ones who managed to get a goal against D'Angelo, which she smiled about.

The second half of the visit was dedicated to D'Angelo sharing her story of growing up playing soccer and leading the Olympics.

"It was unbelievable and a total dream come true," she said of the experience. "After the game I got emotional because it was just so amazing."

Colitti said she's grateful D'Angelo could fit the day into her schedule.

The teacher described herself as a huge soccer fan who once played the sport. She's followed D'Angelo's career from the time she was a child and has nothing but praise for the Welland native.

She called D'Angelo down-to-earth and said she thinks her visit would inspire her students and show them good leadership skills, perseverance and drive — all things she tries to teach in the classroom.

barton@postmedia.ca
Twitter: @LBartonInTune



Isaac Federeico, 8, takes a shot at Olympic bronze medalist Sabrina D'Angelo during her visit to St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, where she showed the kids some drills and shared her story.

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Pelham proud of its Thursday night ambience

WAYNE CAMPBELL

Special to Postmedia Network

A report on Pelham's 2016 Thursday Night Experience has town councillors talking about magazine articles, how-to seminars and award applications.

The farmers' market, supper market and bandshell concerts share Fonthill's Pelham Peace Park on Thursday evenings from May to October, orchestrated by volunteer committees.

Attendance measured at the supper market at totalled 43,443 for the summer, up from 38,283 in 2015, council learned last Monday night.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi said what had been a controversial move to put in the supper market three years ago has enhanced the Thursday experience.

A Thursday night highlight, town recreation director Vickie van Ravenswaay

said, was the creation of the Green Zone by the town's Green Team to recycle waste and educate vendors and visitors.

Niagara Region calculated Pelham Supper Market generated 483 kilograms of recyclable materials and 1,305 kilograms of organic materials that would have gone to the landfill, she said.

The Niagara Region's Water Wagon was brought in Thursday nights to refill people's water bottles.

Pelham staff are applying for a "best greening of a festival or event" award from Festival and Events Ontario.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley said the town should submit an article to *Municipal World* magazine about the success of the Green Zone.

A Thursday night attendance survey last week, answered by 155 people, indicated visitors are satisfied with the experience.



A large crowd listens to R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A. at the opening of this year's Fonthill bandshell summer concert series.

WAYNE CAMPBELL/FILE PHOTO

About 70 per cent were from Pelham and 20 per cent from Welland.

The recreation director said there has been a decrease in complaints from local businesses about parking issues.

For Thursdays the town spent \$24,211 in logistical

costs for washrooms, security and shuttle service.

The supper market in 2016 received \$36,270 in revenues, including a Niagara Region cultural grant, and spent \$33,585 for local musicians, uniforms for volunteers, inventory and Pelham promotional materials.

At last Monday's town council meeting, Pelham applied for a special occasion permit for a licensed area in the same Peace Park location for 2017.

The farmers' market reported its 13th season was successful despite hot weather. It plans to add more

local farmers to the lineup to continue "to be a true farmers market."

The Fonthill bandshell concert committee reported that parking is still an issue. It suggested more signage to encourage shuttle service use.

The committee would also like more picnic tables in its area.

The concert committee is asking for a flattening of part of the hill around the band shell, if the town gets a grant, although town council last Monday received a letter from the Ontario Trillium Foundation turning down its bid for a grant to renovate Peace Park.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp suggested Pelham could hold a seminar at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference to explain what went into making Thursday nights a great community experience.

IN BRIEF

Hazel McCallion to address Pelham seniors

Pelham's seniors advisory committee will chip in \$1,500 to bring Hazel McCallion to the town's Niagara Age-Friendly Celebration 2017 in June.

The former longtime mayor of Mississauga, now the first chancellor

of Sheridan College, will be the keynote speaker.

Gail Hiley, chair of the advisory committee, said in a letter the planning committee will seek alternate sources of funds as well.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp told council last Monday night the age-friendly celebration will be a major local event for Canada's 150th anniversary.

Pelham retains auditor for next five years

Pelham town council will continue to use Deloitte LLP to provide external auditing services to 2020.

It is one of three firms that bid for a five-year contract. Fees for the next five years are:

start at \$36,467 for 2016 and end at \$39,285 in 2020.

Treasurer Carl Pupo said fees do include calculating the unusual role of the town as a developer in the east Fonthill project.

DeLoitte has had the contract for the past five years.

Niagara Region's transit study ignores Pelham's service, councillors say

Although Pelham has run a one-bus rural transit system for almost two years, it was barely mentioned by a consultant doing a study of Niagara Region transit services.

Town council received the Niagara Region Inter-Municipal Transit Study

Update at last Monday's meeting.

Dillon consulting suggested the town drop off passengers at regional stops.

"Our fledgling transit system seems to be forgotten," said Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi, who can see it extending into Waitfleet and West Lincoln.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the report does not talk about Pelham's service.

"I feel our comments feel on deaf ears," he said. Dillon Consulting and the study's working group "are missing the importance of our service."

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said he is working with a group of non-profit organizations looking into creating an independent transit system with existing rolling stock. It would work

with seniors groups and possibly the Region.

Recreation director Vickie van Ravenswaay said the Region will circulate a final version of the inter-municipal transit study in January.

"We can receive the report and respond to it," she said.

Pelham's pilot project transit service, which operates with a provincial grant, is due to end in March unless the town decides to continue it.

It connects Fonthill, Ridgewill, Fenwick and North Pelham with daily runs to Niagara College and Seaway Mall in Welland, as well as stops at seniors residences. It also provides on-call and special event services.

— Wayne Campbell, special to Postmedia Network



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Last Thursday, we celebrated two very generous local family businesses for donating significant funds to support the new Pelham Community Centre.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Dr. Tim Nohara and his company, Accipiter Radar Technologies, Arena A will be named the Accipiter Arena. Accipiter donated \$250,000 to the community centre's capital fundraising campaign. The Accipiter Arena will feature an NHL-size ice surface with a 1,000-seat spectator area. This arena will be capable of hosting major sporting events, trade shows, concerts, and other commercial affairs.

Nohara relocated Accipiter Radar Technologies from Waterloo to Pelham in 1995 and, through hard work and diligence, developed the company into a global leader in advanced aviation and security radar technologies.

Because of the contributions of the Dulibian family and the Trillium Mutual Insurance Co. — who donated \$125,000 and \$25,000 respectively — Arena B will be named Dulibian Insurance Arena.

This NHL-size ice surface with 100-rinkside seats — will host hockey, figure skating, lacrosse and many other events sporting and cultural events. The Dulibian Insurance Arena will be visible from the upper viewing area, which will allow spectators easy viewing from above the ice.

With a long history in Pelham and Niagara, Dulibian Insurance

recently relocated their head-office to uptown Fonthill (on Highway 20 between Haist and Lookout streets). Since the Dulibian family supported the fundraising campaign for the existing arena, it's wonderful that they so strongly support the new community centre.

On behalf of council, I deeply appreciate the generosity of these amazing donors. Not only do their gifts signal that the community centre continues to move forward, they also demonstrate significant support for the new facility.

Each donor spoke so well about their involvement in the community over the years and about how they want to see our community continue to progress and grow.

Again, I deeply appreciate the generosity of these amazing donors.

There are many opportunities for other donors to support the facility's campaign. For example, the gymnasium, the viewing areas, the multi-purpose spaces, the change rooms, the atrium, and then entire facility may be named to honour the generosity of other donors.

Following this capital fundraising campaign, volunteers will begin a community fundraising campaign phase in late 2017 or early 2018. Every community member will have an opportunity to contribute to this once-in-a-lifetime project, by pledging his or her support for the Pelham Community Centre.

For more information about the Pelham Community Centre and fundraising options, please check out the special website at www.ourpcc.ca.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelham-mayordave.blogspot.com.

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NOTICE: Pelham Arena will be closed on December 25, 26 & 31 and January 1 for the Holidays. The Silverstick Tournament will be held Dec 27-29.

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*Mayor Dave Augustyn, Pelham
Council & Town of Pelham Staff*

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Turner, Jacques Hockey Night in Welland draws large crowd



YOUTUBE

In this YouTube screenshot, Team Yellow celebrates its Julia Turner and Dalton Jacques Hockey Night in Welland game win. Team Yellow played on behalf of Jacques and faced off against Team Purple, who took shots on Turner.

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

A charity event in memory of two Welland teens saw a huge turnout and massive pile of donations.

The Julia Turner and Dalton Jacques Hockey Night in Welland event took place last Tuesday night, with Team Purple and Team Yellow facing off in support of the teens who both died of cancer years apart.

Event organizer Linda Falovo-Atkinson estimated an attendance of 1,000 people for the event held in Welland's main arena. People brought food and money donations which totalled about 3,000 food items and \$3,000.

"(The Hope Centre) couldn't even pick everything up in one truckload," she said.

The food donations have gone to The Hope Centre, as well as have some of the funds raised. The rest of the money is being donated to Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton.

Falovo-Atkinson remarked how amazing the gesture is considering how many Welland residents face struggles of their own.

The community is a big part of why the event can even exist, though.

Paul Turner, Julia's father, said he is grateful to the community.

"To keep the memory of our kids alive means so much to us. Our community in Welland is just exceptional. You can't get any better," he said.

Last week was the anniversary of Julia's death.

In the past, the hockey game was in his daughter's name, but Dalton was added after he lost his battle with cancer in March.

Turner described the relationship he has with the Jacques family as being a part of a club that nobody

wants to join, because it means the loss of a child. But they're able to support each other.

He said through faith and the support of the community, he and his family have been able to cope.

This year the hockey game was Team Purple, for Julia, versus Team Yellow, for Dalton. Turner said the game isn't about who wins or loses, but Team Yellow took the title. He called it an exciting game.

Falovo-Atkinson noticed a difference at this year's game.

"It's still exciting, it's still everybody's there for the right reason, everybody there wanted to give back and everybody there loved these kids, but it was sad," she said, saying she could see the sadness in everybody's eyes.

"It can't be easy for the families to get out there and be centred."

This was the fifth year for the event, and she said always checks with the families to make sure it's OK to continue with it because it's in their kids' names.

She wants to continue the event next year, too, but hopes for more help as the event grows. This year was particularly challenging because it was like starting from scratch because a new logo, new jerseys and more people were involved. She used all the help she could get.

Falovo-Atkinson wants to continue with the event to continue to uphold the positive values projected by the two teens.

"It's so important, especially this time of the year, to give back to the community," she said. "That's probably the major key: these kids were all about giving. They were selfless. They thought about others before they thought about themselves."

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LOCAL NEWS

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❁ HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION

There are no curbside collection day changes for December 2016 or January 2017. Garbage, Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin material will be collected on your regular collection day.

❁ HOLIDAY GARBAGE EXEMPTIONS

In the week following Christmas (Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30), residents may place double their regular weekly garbage limit to the curb on their collection day.

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Niagara introduces 911 texting service

MARYANNE FIRTH
 Postmedia Network

A new tool to reach emergency responders is getting thumbs up. Niagara 911 and local emergency services have launched a program that allows the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired members of the community to text 911.

The new technology, T9-1-1, allows emergency operators to communicate through text when the need arises.

It can be used whenever police, firefighters, Niagara EMS or Niagara Parks Police are required to respond.

"We've been working in excess of a year to get Text 911 up and running... It's been a multi-step process," Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Dave Weeks said of the initiative, which is meant to increase accessibility of local emergency services.

To use the service, a cellphone must be registered for T9-1-1 with the phone's service provider. The phone and its service plan must be capable of sending and receiving text messages.

There is no cost to register.

To use the service, users must first place a conventional voice call to 911.

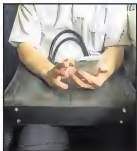
That call is flagged as coming from a registered T9-1-1 phone and prompts the emergency operator to initiate a text chat with the device using a secondary software, Weeks said.

A call is first required to provide 911 with initial data about its source that cannot otherwise be immediately obtained through text.

Throughout the duration of the call and text session, the operator can hear background noise from the caller's end, which will be used to add any pertinent information to the call log that may aid first responders.

"The reality is most of the callers who are registering do have the capability of either speech or hearing," Weeks said.

Rather than conduct the critical conversation in writing in both directions, which can take substantially longer than a phone call, the caller can identify whether they're able to hear or speak to the operator, can conduct the conversation accordingly, he said.



MOMENT EDITORIAL/GETTY IMAGES

"Our operator can do the typing and the caller can do the speaking or vice versa."

While it has been suggested in some communities that texting 911 should be made available to the general public, Weeks said that concept comes with "a lot of pitfalls."

"A conversation takes four to five times as long (by text) and it's a constant battle here to answer these phones as quickly as possible," he said.

"We just want to get someone on the way to help."

The service, if opened to all residents, would also require additional resources for added personnel, he said.

"When people understand the personnel that would be required as a result, they would say let's just call."

Connectivity may also be a hindrance as texts to 911 are reliant on the phone carrier's network, whereas calls to 911 come through dedicated infrastructure that has redundancy and backup power sources built in, Weeks said.

Niagara 911 has no control over the delivery success and timeliness of text messaging content.

Weeks estimated that less than 100 people in Niagara are expected to register for the service.

He stressed that no cellphone can initiate a texting session with 911, whether registered or otherwise. If call from a registered phone is not first made, texts to 911 will not be delivered.

For more information on the service, visit www.textwith911.ca.

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No rest for the healthy after retirement

DON FRASER

Postmedia Network

The man was a Cape Breton coal miner, retired in name only.

Ellis Katsorf was struck by a conversation with him — one of dozens for a book exploring ways that people are reinventing themselves in senior years.

His interviewee had retired at 65, but you'd never know it 18 years later.

Soon after his formal career ended, the man opened a gift shop, which evolved into a bustling restaurant.

He'd be there at 7:30 a.m. every day — before his daughters got in — sliding the turkey into the oven and whipping up fish chowder. Later, each day, the former miner returned to help close the eatery.

"I said to him, 'Why? You don't have to do this,'" said Katsorf, speaking inside his Port Dalhousie home.

"He told me, 'When a lot of my friends retired from the mines, they put their feet up and did nothing. Within two years, they were dead or had illnesses.

"I didn't want to go that way ... if you keep your body moving, your mind keeps moving and you stay healthy."

It's a message that kept flowing through interviews for Katsorf's



Ellis Katsorf is near completion of his lifestyle book on "protirement."

BOB TINGEY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

forthcoming publication *Life 3.0 Boomer Alternative: Protirement not Retirement: The* Katsorf, a recently retired CEO

of Niagara's Pathstone Mental Health, racked up an impressive list of those conversations.

Among them are music greats Ronnie Hawkins and Lona Boyd, former broadcaster Lloyd Robertson and former Canadian prime minister Paul Martin.

Others to reveal unique "protirement" are former Apple CEO Gil Amelio and the first U.S. Homeland Security secretary Tom Ridge.

"I've interviewed some very well known people in Canada and the States, as well as people from every walk of life," said Katsorf, who is 65.

"And everybody said it differently, but they basically said the same thing, 'You need to keep active.'"

Katsorf observes a crucial difference for this baby boomer generation: they're living longer than their parents.

"Today, if we're healthy we know we're going to live another 20 to 30 years. You can't stay at home, travel and golf for 20 years, you need to be actively engaged."

He said 110 interviews were done for a book he hopes to release next spring, along with an online-based business to focus on consulting, speaking and setting up a planner related to protirement.

PROTIREMENT

Ellis Katsorf says his book *Life 3.0 Protirement not Retirement: The Boomer Alternative* is partly finished.

He's in discussions with two publishers, and hopes to have the book done by April.

A full website should be running soon, with a holding page in place at MyProtirement.com and a Facebook page for 'My Protirement' now active.

The author explained that term as a process he's discovered.

We retire from a lifelong job, then go through a transition or an "unknown zone." In an ideal scenario, we figure out how to "protect" by possibly staying employed, while keeping intellectually, socially and community-engaged.

Katsorf said a mission of his will be to highlight common activities people do to overcome a retirement stagnation, and the challenges they face.

In his own case, after a retirement last January, Katsorf set up a management consulting business. It was a gig he'd done before.

"I knew I needed to keep busy. Then I got bored," said Katsorf, who lives with his wife, Coletta McGrath, executive director of St. Catharines-based Quest Community Health Care.

"I've been doing this work for 40 years, and figured out I need to do something different ... that's when I started talking to people."

"After I did 20 to 25 interviews, I realized I had the contents of a book," he said.

"So I went to the store looking for books about retirement planning and they were all about money. There was very little about lifestyle planning."

Among things he's observed that make for successful protirements are engaging hobbies, boosted social activities, volunteer and political work, community building and entrepreneurial ventures. Above all, booms "shun the word retirement," he said. They also emphasize a deep-seated need in later years to give back to the community.

"Everything is open to these people," he said.

"These baby boomers are embracing the world. They are doing the things they love doing, and doing many things."

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